



**Chapter:** Uniforms and Equipment  
**Subject:** 04-07 – Bullet-Resistant Vests  
**Effective:** October 29, 2024  
**Supersedes:** Official Order 04-07, dated April 19, 2022  
**Distribution:** Department Members

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**PURPOSE:** This Order establishes department policy related to bullet-resistant vests.

#### **04-07-1 POLICY**

It is the department's policy that all enforcement members shall wear their issued bullet-resistant vests while on duty unless otherwise stated in this Order.

#### **04-07-2 DEFINITIONS**

- A. Specialty Units: As used in this Order, Specialty Units include the Aviation Unit, Bomb Squad, Canine Unit, Emergency Support Team, Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit, and the Marine Services Team.
- B. Investigative Units: As used in this Order, Investigative Units include the Special Investigation Division, Special Investigation Section (Detective Unit, Fugitive Teams, Major Case Unit, Task Forces), Investigative Support Section (Surveillance Teams), Gaming Section, and Cyber Section.

#### **04-07-3 ISSUE OF EQUIPMENT**

Bullet-resistant vests are issued to enforcement members in accordance with this Order.

- A. A bullet-resistant vest shall be issued to each enforcement member during recruit training.
- B. Bullet-resistant vests shall be replaced in accordance with the current manufacturer's warranty.
- C. Bullet-resistant vests shall be replaced in the case of damage to the ballistic panels.
- D. If a fit issue arises after the original issue date, the Quartermaster shall be contacted to arrange for a replacement vest.
- E. Department firearms instructors shall inspect each enforcement member's bullet-resistant vest during the annual summer shoot for condition, proper wear, and fit.

#### **04-07-4 USE OF BULLET-RESISTANT VESTS**

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this Order, enforcement members shall wear their

department-issued bullet-resistant vest while on duty.

- B. Enforcement members shall wear their department-issued bullet-resistant vest while participating in firearms training.
- C. Enforcement members assigned to an Investigative Unit or Specialty Unit, as defined in this Order, are encouraged to wear their department-issued bullet-resistant vest while on duty but are not required to do so except under the following circumstances:
  - (1) Enforcement and investigative encounters in unsecured areas where there is a reasonable suspicion criminal activity is actively being involved in.
  - (2) The member anticipates participating in enforcement activity (e.g., serving an arrest warrant, executing a search warrant).
  - (3) The member is detailed to work a uniformed assignment where law enforcement interaction with the public is occurring or is likely to occur.
- D. Enforcement members with primarily administrative duties are not required to wear a bullet-resistant vest during the normal course of their duties, unless:
  - (1) The member anticipates participating in enforcement activity (e.g., serving an arrest warrant, executing a search warrant), or
  - (2) The member is detailed to work a uniformed assignment where law enforcement interaction with the public is occurring or is likely to occur.

#### **04-07-5 SOFT BODY ARMOR DESCRIPTION AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

- A. Each bullet-resistant vest consists of the following components:
  - (1) Ballistic Panels
    - a. Each bullet-resistant vest consists of a front and a back ballistic panel, fitted to the wearer. The panels are certified by the National Institute of Justice, to provide Level II protection. Panels are clearly marked as to which side shall be placed against the member's body. Members shall ensure the panels are placed in the carrier correctly. By contract, manufacturers supplying bullet-resistant vests to the department must provide a minimum of ½" of overlap on the side panels of the armor.
  - (2) Panel Carrier
    - a. Each vest will be supplied with one panel carrier. In the event the carrier is damaged or excessively worn, the member shall contact the Quartermaster to arrange replacement.
  - (3) Hard Trauma Plate
    - a. Each ballistic vest will contain a hard trauma plate. The plate shall be worn in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
  - (4) All department-issued ballistic vests shall be cared for and stored in the manner specified by the manufacturer [Safariland Use and Care of Body Armor](#).

#### **04-07-6 BALLISTIC PLATES AND CARRIERS**

- A. Enforcement members are issued ballistic hard plates and carriers which contain the following:
  - (1) Load bearing outer carrier with Molle attachment system.
  - (2) Front and rear ballistic special threat plates.
  - (3) Molle attached M-4 and magazine pouch and first aid pouch.
- B. The plates are a “stand alone” system and soft body armor does not need to be worn under the plates to provide ballistic protection. The plates by themselves provide special threat ballistic protection and wearing soft body armor is not required but is allowed.
- C. Department owned plates and carriers shall be cared for in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
- D. The plates and carriers shall be stored horizontally in a manner which makes them accessible to officers while protecting it from exposure to water or salt.
- E. Replacement carriers, ballistic plates and attachments shall be obtained through the Quartermaster.

DIRECTOR

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<b>Annual Review Responsibility:</b>	Training Division
<b>Accreditation Standards:</b>	CALEA 41.3.5